

Testimony for SB 175, 5307, and 179.

Good Morning Education Committee Members,

My name is Anne Manusky, Easton, CT and I am a parent, former school counselor, former research assistant in mental health, and currently an advocate for children's education.

In regard to SB 175 'An Act Concerning Recommendations of the Department of Education', SB 5307 'An Act Prohibiting the Unreasonable Delay in enrolling a Child in Kindergarten ', and SB 179 'An Act Concerning Education Issues'. My testimony includes issues which go to the concerns of these three bills.

Our CT Education Committee and CT General Assembly need to review a few things before making any decisions on what to "improve", and what points encroach on Unconstitutional issues in the Constitution State. The US Constitution provides for its citizens to have certain inalienable rights, and as Article 10 which provides The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, all remaining powers are reserved for the states or the people (US Constitution, and Tenth Amendment to the US Constitution).

The inalienable rights of parents are to raise their children as they may. For the past 40 years modifications to education and the encroachment over parent choices have eroded the freedoms of parents. In the past 10, since Common Core and its linked testing (Smarter Balanced, the test that has not been peer reviewed determining true validity and reliability. has come about parents have had more concerns as to what is really being taught in our schools, as well as tested, and data collected. The CT Education Committee would be wise to slowly investigate all three, for the real reason of education, examination and the need of data.

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) was decided to be null and void after Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into to law in December. This was to 'clean the slate' for states to provide their own design for education needs. The states taking the clean slate and not continuing to punish public schools by keeping provisions of the CT NCLB waiver, namely rating districts, and punishing the districts which have not met the 95% of tested students. Our people of CT want a education for education's sake, not a workforce, and determined by the people of CT.

I have great concerns in regard to public education issues of the past 25 years, included seeing my own children's public education reduction in many ways, including Common Core/CT Core increases in testing, and the data. Surreptitious data collection and now security for their future, which we here stories of breaches, and now in CA, the children's data being sold to third party vendors.

CT is at a very critical point. This is happening due to lack of jobs, high taxes and the downward spiral of public education- much in part to the push for high cost changes in each and every district, and the great push of Charters. Education' abuse' -- developmentally inappropriate Common Core curriculum in the early K-3 years, questions as to whether or not parents enroll their children in school. Parents have the right to make these choices. Taxpayers, on the hook for millions of dollars in the invalid Smarter Balanced and the costs of the unlawful interstate compact. Costs: Eight million dollars for the Smarter Balanced testing from 2013-2015, and the contracts with AIR for almost 18 million for the same period.

Our elected leaders, can be the force to change this -- and improve CT and its public education system, where people will be happy to have their children in the public schools, when education, is returned to proper developmental levels, children happily coming home from school, and parents not delaying enrollment.

Addenda:

1) A white paper from Dr. Mary Byrne, EdD , *Issues and Recommendations for Resolution of the General Assembly Regarding Validity and Reliability of the Smarter Balanced Assessments Scheduled for Missouri in Spring 2015.*  
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/mary+byrne/14d78e6fc620c5bf?projector=1>

2) Email correspondence between myself, and CT Department of education staffer, in regard to the validation of the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The remark 'considers validity' stands out. There is a great deal of work to determine validity - whether a test measures what it is supposed to measure and whether it is then reliable - measuring consistently; repeat-ability. No peer review exists for this test instrument. Below:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Krisst, Abe" <[Abe.Krisst@ct.gov](mailto:Abe.Krisst@ct.gov)>

Date: Jan 21, 2016 9:43 AM

Subject: Re: Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) validation; reliability of assessment device

To: "Anne Manusky" <[annemanusky@gmail.com](mailto:annemanusky@gmail.com)>

Cc:

Anne,

Thanks for your email. Please see the technical report cited below that considers validity.

[http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/2013-14\\_Technical\\_Report.pdf](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/2013-14_Technical_Report.pdf)

Thanks,

Abe

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From: Anne Manusky <[annemanusky@gmail.com](mailto:annemanusky@gmail.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 8:34 PM

To: Krisst, Abe

Subject: Fwd: Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) validation; reliability of assessment device

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Anne Manusky" <[annemanusky@gmail.com](mailto:annemanusky@gmail.com)<<mailto:annemanusky@gmail.com>>>

Date: Jan 20, 2016 4:30 PM

Subject: Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) validation; reliability of assessment device

To: <[abekrisst@ct.gov](mailto:abekrisst@ct.gov)<<mailto:abekrisst@ct.gov>>>

Cc:

Abe,

I am inquiring as to the Smarter Balanced Assessments and the validation to ascertain reliability of the testing instruments being used for state grade level testing, in CT.

Any and all information is requested, and E-mail copies preferred.

Sincerely,

Anne Manusky

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3) Sauer v. Nixon - MO lawsuit and judgement for the appeal to uphold lawsuit of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, in which the Court found '...is an unlawful interstate compact to which the US Congress has never consented..."

<http://caselaw.findlaw.com/mo-court-of-appeals/1718493.html>

In conclusion, It is my suggestion to the Education Committee to remove the Smarter Balanced Assessment until an actual valid test is reviewed by the state Board of Education for the quality of the test; quite possibly returning to the CMT's which had many years of data to determine validity, reliability as well as measuring strands of specific components taught at each grade level.

The Education Committee should look to their fiduciary responsibility in any and all of these issues -- especially in the current crisis financial state of CT.

Our state Department of Education needs time to 'clean the slate'. Cementing issues of NCLB into law will not improve education for our CT children.

Parents have the right to make decisions for their children. In parents knowing the facts here, and that Common Core, testing and data collection are used in the schools not to educate their children, but to use their children as research subjects, and with little choice; parents who choose education and freedom for their children will look to avoid public schools and find various ways of educating their children.